REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11 and 12 remain in the application, claims 10 and 13 having been canceled

and incorporated into their respective parent claims 9 and 13. Reconsideration of the application

and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the

following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-13 are rejected for anticipation by Linneweh, Jr. (USP 5,862,485),

and claims 3 and 7 are rejected as unpatentable over Linneweh in view of Bressler (USP

6,584,190). Both rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a way of providing some users with preferential

access for some calls. The present invention separates users into at least two groups, e.g.,

privileged and unprivileged. The invention further recognizes that a privileged user may have a

need for particular calls (either to another privileged user or to an unprivileged user, it makes no

difference). In order to ensure that a particular privileged user can make a particular call, the

system permanently reserves segments on each trunk between nodes needed to set up circuits for

that particular call. These reserved segments are then dynamically allocated amongst privileged

users having a need, but are not available to unprivileged users. By permanently reserving

segments in this way, the present invention absolutely avoids conflicts between privileged users

and unprivileged users. When a path set up is requested by a privileged user, there never is a

missing segment (denial of service) because of trunk congestion caused by unprivileged users. If

ever there is a missing segment, it is caused by a privileged user legitimately using the reserved

circuit segment.

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Linneweh is concerned with the handling of what it refers to as "priority" calls, such as 911 or other emergency calls. The Background discussion from line 53 of column 1 through line 13 of column 2 acknowledges that it is known to reserve channel resources for priority calls. Lenneweh discloses a method whereby, when the system knows that a particular mobile unit will be placing a call, the system sets aside a circuit for that call, and then allocates it to the call when payment is made.

While Linneweh and the present invention share the concept of reserving resources for anticipated future needs, the present invention is directed to a particular way of doing that that is neither shown nor suggested in the prior art. The present invention permanently reserves circuit segments on each trunk needed to set up *particular* calls involving *preferred* users, so that there is never a conflict between a preferred and non-preferred user for these reserved circuit segments. This concept is not taught by Linneweh. At the bottom of column 1 Linneweh describes "continuous" reservation systems where channels are reserved at all times and are not available for non-priority users, and "intermittent" reservation systems where the channels are reserved as necessary. The continuous reservation systems result in inefficiency use of resources, and the intermittent systems are efficient but require too much human intervention. So the solution provided by Linneweh is an improved intermittent-type system, where less human intervention is required.

One of the virtues of the intermittent system in the eyes of Linneweh is that it does not tie up channels on a continuous basis, but makes these channels available to all users when they are not needed. And this is, of course, a characteristic of the Linneweh system. Linneweh reserves at the last moment, on an as-needed base (column 2 line 17). When no segment, in a trunk, is

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needed for a priority call, this trunk can be completely used by non-priority callers, i.e., there may be a congestion which could lead to a crucial segment may be missing, with a denial of service to a priority caller, because of trunk congestion caused by non-priority calls.

Since non-priority calls are generally far more numerous than priority calls, the probability of occupation of a crucial segment is far higher in Linneweh's network than in the present invention. So the quality of service (the absence of denial of service) will be better in the case of the present invention.

Thus, the "intermittent" systems described by Linneweh do not anticipate the present claims because they do not permanently reserve, and the "continuous" systems described by Linneweh do not anticipate the claims because they do not dynamically assign the continuously reserved channels. Still further, even if there were dynamic assignment in "continuous" system discussed in Linneweh, the reservation is for priority calls and not for particular calls of preferred users.

Thus, Linneweh reserves a resource when it detects that a priority call is going to be made, and then allocates it when the call is actually made. So the "reservation" in Linneweh is different from the present invention in that it is actually part of a two-step allocation process that does not start until a need for the channel is detected, whereas the present invention reserves the resources before it detects they are needed. Thus, claim 1 refers to a circuit or segment as being "permanently" reserved, which is different from Linneweh which only reserves a resource when a need is detected.

All independent claims have now been amended to clarify that the reserved segments are only available for preferred users. (In the case of claims 9 and 12 this is simply the incorporation

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of claims 10 and 13 into parent claims 9 and 13.). The combination of such permanent reservation along with dynamic assignment is not shown of suggested in the applied art.

Bressler does not make up for the deficiencies noted above with respect to Linneweh.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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